(a) whether a number of LPG agencies and SKO dealers in Delhi are having different refill sale and allocation;

(b) if so, whether new SKO dealers are given less allocation in respect to old dealers and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for not bringing all the LPG dealers/SKO dealers at par and make equal allocation to SKO dealers; and

(d) the details of plans to make such SKO dealers at par with other old dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The SKO allocation to the dealers depends upon the area of distribution, the attachment of retailers made by Civil Supplies Authorities in addition to historical allocation.

(c) and (d) It is not always possible to bring at par all the LPG/SKO dealers in a given market. However, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) try to ensure that all such dealers operate at minimum economic viable level by restructuring the markets in respect of LPG distributors and SKO allocation among dealers.

Rise in crude oil import

2197. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's crude oil production has recently recorded a steep rise and if so, to what extent;

(b) whether ONGC's Gujarat oil fields recorded highest output recently and whether Government expect this trend to continue for more years to come;

(c) whether the overall trend indicates larger volumes of crude oil imports every year and whether against a crude oil import of 40 million tonnes in 1998-99, the imports rose to 76 million tonnes in 2000-2001; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The production of crude oil in the first quarter (April—June, 2002), of the current year 2002-03 was 8.17 million metric tonnes (MMT) as against the production of 7.62 MMT during the corresponding period last year (2001-2002). While the actual production during 2001-02 was 32.03 MMT, a target of 33.17 MMT has been fixed for 2002-03.

(b) The crude oil production by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) in Gujarat has been increasing since the last few years as given below:

Year	Oil Production (MMT)
1999-2000	5.665
2000-2001	5.785
2001-2002	5.972

However, the highest ever oil production from Gujarat by ONGC was 6.363 MMT during 1995-96. As per the current projections, the trend of production in Gujarat of around 6 MMT per annum is likely to continue for the next 3 years.

(c) and (d) Crude oil imports have increase from 39.808 MMT in 1998-99 to 74.097 MMT in 2000-01. The reason for the higher crude oil imports is the increase in refining capacity in the country, from 62.24 MMT on 1.4.1998 to 112.54 MMT on 1.4.2001. With the increase in domestic refining capacity, the import of crude oil has gone up and the import of finished products has come down with value addition taking place domestically.

Indo-Iraq agreement on oil sector

2198. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into an agreement with Iraq to bolster trade ties *inter-alia* in oil sector, if so, the details of the agreement; and